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RIKEN calls for Research Proposals for the Prototype XFEL

RIKEN has begun soliciting research proposals for the prototype X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) at the Harima Institute in Hyogo Prefecture. Proposals have been accepted since February.

Japan's government has designated XFEL one of the key technologies of National Importance. The five-year construction project which began in FY2006 was preceded by a joint RIKEN/JASRI project. In 2005, RIKEN began building a prototype XFEL at the SPring-8 site prior to the construction of the full-scale, 700 m XFEL machine. The 60 m prototype, which boosts electrons with 250 MeV of power, succeeded in creating FEL in the extreme ultraviolet (EUV) wavelength of 49 nm in June, 2006. Experiments using the prototype XFEL starting in May, 2008 will exploit its extremely intense ultraviolet radiation to explore new frontiers of science. The experiments will also clarify the direction of research for the full-size XFEL machine.

Details concerning submission of proposals can be found on the website of the XFEL Experimental Facility Group (Japanese only).

For more information, please contact:

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